

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

002/005

FEB 09 2004

OFFICIAL

Attorney Docket No. 013341-000014

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of Andrew Kaplan et al.)	
Application No. 10/065,256)	Group Art Unit: 3731
Filed: September 30, 2002)	Examiner: Julian W. Woo
Title: Suture Method)	

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION
 OF SPECIES REQUIREMENTS**

Sir:

In a Restriction Requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121 dated January 7, 2004, the Examiner indicated that the present application includes claims to the following inventions:

- I. Claims 1-10, drawn to a method of joining and holding portions of a stomach to each other in the performance of a Nissen fundoplication, classified in class 606, subclass 153.
- II. Claims 11-13, drawn to a method for laparoscopically inserting a suture in a surgical procedure, classified in class 606, subclass 148.
- III. Claims 14 and 15, drawn to a method for performing an anastomosis of the liver bile duct to a bowel structure, classified in class 606, subclass 153.
- IV. Claims 16 and 17, drawn to a method for tying off an appendiceal stump resulting from the performance of an appendectomy, classified in class 606, subclass 153.
- V. Claim 18, drawn to a method for joining and holding closed the muscle layers that define the orifice of a Zenker's Diverticulum, classified in class 606, subclass 144.

DUR1356310_1